<u>REMARKS</u>

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated January 11, 2006, Applicant has elected Group I, claims 1-7, 12-15, 16-19, 20-26, and 27-31, directed to methods for identifying an agent that modulates sphingolipid metabolism comprising altered growth of the mutant yeast strain and a decrease of SPHK1 activity, and invention C, directed to methods utilizing a null mutant of the DPL1, LCB4, and YSR2 genes, for examination at this time. Applicant has canceled non-elected claims 8-11 without prejudice to the filing of any divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part application. Consideration of the elected claims is now requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

Seed Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC

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